

FAULT-TOLERANT DISTRIBUTED SYSTEM FOR COLLABORATIVE
COMPUTING

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A fault-tolerant distributed collaborative
computer system is provided that comprises a plurality
10 of server computers interconnected via a high-speed
link. By replicating the conference information on
more than one server computer, the single point of
failure limitation is eliminated. In fact, if a server
hosting or participating in a conference malfunctions,
15 the failure is detected by other server computers and
the client computer is able to reconnect to the
conference through a new server computer. In addition,
the state of processes executed by the server computers
is periodically replicated, so that when failure of a
20 process is detected a new processes can be spawned and
the replicated state information loaded onto the new
process, allowing the on-line conference to continue.